

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6245

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, XX

SUBJ: STAFFING OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS IN SINGAPORE

REF: A-3590, JULY 20, 1976

1. THE INSTRUCTION UNDER REFERENCE INFORMED ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS THAT UNDER THE FY '76 SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION (A) ALL MAAGS WOULD CEASE OPERATING AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1977; (B) DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICES COULD NOT PERFORM SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS AFTER THAT DATE; AND (C) AFTER SEPT. 30, 1977 THE PRESIDENT MAY ASSIGN "NOT MORE THAN THREE MEMBERS" OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE CHIEF OF EACH UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO PERFORM SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNCTIONS.

2. THE FORTHCOMING ABOLITION OF ALL MAAGS POSES NO PROBLEM FOR EMBASSY SINGAPORE SINCE THERE IS CURRENTLY NO MAAG OPERATING AT THIS POST. HOWEVER, THE PROHIBITION AGAINST DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICES PERFORMING SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS AFTER SEPT. 30, 1977 DOES RAISE A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM SINCE DAO/SINGAPORE CURRENTLY DEVOTES BETWEEN ONE-THIRD AND ONE-HALF OF ITS MAN-
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POWER (10 AMERICAN PERSONNEL INCLUDING OFFICERS, ENLISTED MEN

AND ONE DOD CIVILIAN) TO SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS (FMS (CASH SALE) CASES). ALL INDICATIONS POINT TO A CONTINUATION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACTIVITY AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME LEVEL FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

3. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT TO AVOID ANY SOLUTION WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THIS EMBASSY. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THIS EMBASSY OPERATES UNDER A GOVERNMENT IMPOSED CEILING ON THE NUMBER OF DIPLOMATIC AND NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL. THE GOS HAS IMPOSED THIS CEILING LARGELY WITH A VIEW TO RESTRICTING THE SIZE OF OTHER DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENTS, ESPECIALLY THE SOVIET EMBASSY AND A PRC EMBASSY WHICH MIGHT WELL BE ESTABLISHED SOMETIME IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY RESIST ANY REQUEST TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE EMBASSY, AND THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO SEEK AN INCREASE IN THE CEILING UNLESS THERE IS A CLEARLY DEMONSTRABLE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.

4. THE DAO OFFICE AT THIS EMBASSY IS CURRENTLY STAFFED WITH SUFFICIENT PERSONNEL TO HANDLE BOTH DIA AND FMS REQUIREMENTS. IF IT WERE TO CEASE HANDLING FMS CASES, IT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTAFFED. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DELIBERATION AND DISCUSSION WITH THE DEFENSE ATTACHE, THE EMBASSY WISHES TO PROPOSE A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT BOTH SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND INTELLIGENCE FUNCTIONS COULD BE PERFORMED WITHOUT VIOLATING EITHER THE LETTER OR THE SPIRIT OF THE NEW LEGISLATION, AND, EQUALLY IMPORTANT, WOULD NOT INVOLVE ANY INCREASE IN PERSONNEL. EMBASSY/DAO BELIEVE THE BEST APPROACH WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH A SEPARATE SECURITY ASSISTANCE OFFICE WHICH WOULD REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE AMBASSADOR. THIS OFFICE SHOULD BE HEADED BY AN ARMY OR AIR FORCE OFFICER (AT THE LT. COLONEL LEVEL) WHO WOULD BE SKILLED IN FMS PROCEDURES (MOST FMS CASES INVOLVE EQUIPMENT PURCHASED FOR SINGAPORE'S ARMY OR AIR FORCE). THE OFFICE WOULD INCLUDE TWO ENLISTED MEN AT THE E-5/E-7 LEVEL, AS WELL AS ONE SINGAPORE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

5. A COMPENSATORY REDUCTION OF PERSONNEL SHOULD BE EFFECTED IN THE DAO OFFICE BY DELETING ONE OFFICER POSITION AND ONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENLISTED POSITION, AND BY REASSIGNING TO THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE OFFICE TWO POSITIONS (ONE ENLISTED AND ONE LOCAL HIRE) NOW ASSIGNED TO THE DAO, BUT WHICH ARE FUNDED BY CINCPAC FOR FMS ACTIVITIES AND CARRIED ON CINCPAC ROLLS.

6. THE ABOVE RESTRUCTURING OF THE MILITARY COMPONENT AT THIS POST WOULD IN THE EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT RESOLVE THE SPECIFIC PROBLEM POSED BY THE PROVISION IN THE LEGISLATION PROHIBITING

DAOS FROM ENGAGING IN SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1977. HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT DEFENSE ATTACHES COME CONSTANTLY IN CONTACT WITH HOST GOVERNMENT MILITARY OFFICERS WHO HAVE HABITUALLY USED THE DAO AS THE APPROACH POINT WITHIN THE EMBASSY FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE REQUESTS. ANY ATTEMPT TO FORCE A TOTAL AND COMPLETE SEPARATION OF THE ATTACHES FROM SECURITY ASSISTANCE MATTERS WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT WITHOUT UNDERMINING THEIR DIA FUNCTIONS. FURTHERMORE, THE AMBASSADOR WOULD PRESUMABLY WISH TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF HIS SENIOR MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE (THE DEFENSE ATTACHE) ON ALL MILITARY MATTERS, INCLUDING SECURITY ASSISTANCE QUESTIONS, EVEN IF THE DAO OFFICE NO LONGER ADMINISTERED SPECIFIC FMS CASES. THEREFORE, THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE AS TO WHETHER THE PROHIBITION AGAINST DAO OFFICES ENGAGING IN "SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS" WOULD BAR THESE TRADITIONAL DAO FUNCTIONS. THE EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THE SOLUTION PROPOSED IN PARAS 4 - 5. HOLDRIDGE

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